

SMSgt (Ret.) Rob Rosenberger

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Title: GENERAL ARNOLD'S MATERIAL, TROOP
CARRIER COMMAND AND ?

Date(s): 7 JUN 1943

Call: 168.65-20 Volume: —

IRIS: 124442

☒ ALL ☐ Selected Papers ☐ Except

☐ copyrighted news stories; congressional bios; tabbed & oversized pages

SECRET

HAW:baw/73651

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

I-A-3-h

TROOP CARRIER

7 June 1943

P.R.C.

00124442

I. Mission -

- a. Transport airborne troops into combat. Airborne land by parachute and glider in initial stages. After airports are seized additional men and materiel may be brought in by regular airplane landings.
- b. Supply and resupply of units in advanced or isolated positions where other means are not satisfactory.
- c. Transport Airborne Engineers (Avn) with equipment, into areas where airports are to be built. This includes tractors, bull-dozers, etc.
- d. Evacuate wounded from front line areas.
- e. Perform in the combat zones all missions performed by Air Transport Command outside active combat zones.

HIGHLIGHTS

Moved all men and materiel from Port Moresby over the Owen Stanley range to Kokoda in successful operation in New Guinea culminating in annihilation of Japanese. This operation included moving 12,000,000 pounds of men and materiel over this distance and moving 312,000 pounds in one week with only thirty-nine (39) airplanes. Likewise evacuated all wounded and prisoners.

Have evacuated thousands of wounded in North Africa. Details can be obtained from General Grant.

In ferrying its own aircraft across the Atlantic it has made more atlantic crossing in the past year than Panamerican made in a three year period prior to the war.

Three (3) Troop Carrier Groups, while engaged in combined training with Airborne troops, do more flying in a month than was ever done by the largest airline, prior to the war, in a like period of time.

Troop Carrier units when engaged in air evacuation of wounded carry ex-airline hostesses as nurses.

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cont'd.

There are more aircraft in Troop Carrier units in one theater than there were in the entire Domestic Airline system prior to the war, yet Troop Carrier Command has had but one year to build up its organization.

Henry A. Wise, Jr.
HENRY A. WISE, JR.,
Captain, Air Corps.

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AAE
HQ, 1st TROOP CARRIER COMMAND
SIOU7 FIELD, IND.

1 May 1945

Major General James P. Hodges
Asst. Chief of Air Staff, Intelligence
Headquarters, Army Air Forces
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General:

I have your letter of 25 April 1945 requesting any motion pictures on file in this headquarters which would be of use in compiling the Troop Carrier portion of the motion picture history of the Army Air Forces.

It is suggested that the following films may be of assistance in your preparation of the history:

TRAINING FILMS

TF 1-3322 Troop Carrier Airplanes - Power Controlled Approach and Landing.
1-3323 Troop Carrier Airplanes - Performance of a Troop Carrier Mission.
1-3350 Glider Technique.
1-3361 Tactical Use of CG-4A Glider.
1-3399 Operation of Glider Pick-Up by the C-47.
1-3348 Tactical Use of the Glider Pick-Up.
1-3444 Troop Carrier Airplanes - Cockpit Procedure.
1-3711 DZ Normandy.

COMBAT BULLETINS

C-410 Air Operations - Lae-Salamua.
C-413 Aerial Delivery.
C-414 Coming Running.
C-425 Biscuit Bombers.
C-427 Mission to Newak.
C-440 Mission to Rabaul.

Since all of the above films have received general distribution, we are not sending copies to your headquarters as it is believed that your request was for any film other than those which have previously received distribution.

Of possible use also, but not listed here, are numerous technical films on C-47, C-46 and CG-4A aircraft as well as the Weekly AAF Film Digest which often includes much Troop Carrier material.

Copies of films listed above are available in this command and if you desire we shall be glad to forward copies to your headquarters. We will also be glad to furnish any further assistance you desire in the completion of this project.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM D. OLD,
Brigadier General, USA,
Commanding.

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ARMY AIR FORCES
HEADQUARTERS, I TROOP CARRIER COMMAND
STOUT FIELD, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

6 December 1944

Major General James T. Hodges
Assistant Chief of Air Staff, Intelligence
Headquarters Army Air Forces
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear General Hodges:

Your letter of 16 November 1944 concerning the production of a motion picture history of the Army Air Forces has been received. The Troop Carrier Command is extremely anxious to do all possible to help produce an accurate, complete motion picture account of Troop Carrier activities in the various theaters of operation. Naturally, too, we are interested in being as well represented in this motion picture history as is consistent with a well rounded documentary film of the entire Army Air Forces.

Below is a brief outline of what we believe to be the essential points which should be covered if this history is to be representative of the growth and vital significance of Troop Carrier activities in the operations of this war.

TRAINING: It is believed Troop Carrier training in preparation for combat is adequately covered to the present time in the following training films which have been prepared or are in process of preparation.

TF 1-3361	Tactical Use of CG-4A Glider.
TF 1-3350	Glider Technique.
TF 1-3323	Troop Carrier Airplanes - Performance of a Troop Carrier Mission.
<i>Cover</i> Project 9121	Combined Airborne-Troop Carrier Maneuvers
Project 9122	B-17 Troop Carrier
Project 9123	Loading the C-47
TF 1-3322	Troop Carrier Airplanes - Power Controlled Approach and Landing.

It is believed that this phase of the history of Troop Carrier should be covered by cutting a four or five reel subject out of these films, with the possible addition of animated planning data concerning the original deployment of Troop Carrier units throughout the various theaters.

OPERATIONS: Logically following the training and deployment of Troop Carrier units would be their record in various theaters of operations which has in many instances been adequately covered by Signal Corps

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and Combat Camera units of the Air Forces. As a tentative standing operation procedure for the preparation of a documentary film for Troop Carrier operations in the various theaters it is believed that the following would apply where footage is available:

a. Planning - This could be covered by shots of individuals concerned and by the use of maps and animation. The mission, coordination of Troop Carrier plans with other aviation, flight plans, routes, etc., could be shown in this phase.

b. Preparation - This section would show units and individuals engaged in actual tasks preparatory to mission, briefings, parking of aircraft, loading of equipment, etc.

c. Execution - This section should be covered by the best available sequences of shots of the operation in all its phases, including the initial drops, resupply, air evacuation, and mission accomplishments of troops transported into combat.

The following are various theaters of operation on which Troop Carrier pictures have been or are in the process of being made and with which officers of this headquarters are familiar:

EUROPEAN: Reference Tab "A", item 22, of your letter, concerning airborne operations, a combat motion picture entitled "DZ Normandy - Employment of Troop Carrier Forces" was recently completed by the AAF Combat Film Services. Major C. P. Hutchens, this headquarters, served as technical advisor on this film and reports that this is the best footage (8,000 feet) selected from over 100,000 feet of film seen on training, preparation, and execution of this operation. Neither Southern France nor the invasion of Holland, so far as we know, has been made into a film subject other than the AAF Weekly Digest and the Signal Corps Screen Digest. There is, however, some very valuable footage which has not been used in either of these digests and could well be used in a historical subject on Troop Carrier. In this connection it should be mentioned that Signal Corps footage should not be neglected in the selection of film for this history, since in Holland, for example, most of the film coverage was by the Signal Corps rather than AAF Camera Units.

MEDITERRANEAN - Much material has been used in AAF Weekly Digests which shows troop carrier in action in this theater. One of the dramatic stories, on which footage is believed to be available, is the evacuation of Yugoslavian refugees.

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA - C-413 Aerial Delivery

TF/FR-317 Aerial Supply to Burmese Outposts.

In addition to the above film it is also understood that a film is now being made by the Air Forces from footage collected by combat camera men in the CBI theater.

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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC - TF FR 54-57 Air Transport Operations of the Troop Carrier Command.

TF C-425 Biscuit Bomber

Both the Markham Valley and Noemfoor operations were covered by combat camera men of the AAF, as well as supply dropping in New Guinea.

It is believed that the AAF Camera Film Service in New York City which publishes the Weekly Digest is fully capable of extracting most Troop Carrier footage from the thousands of feet of film sent in each week by combat camera men, inasmuch as they have recently completed the Troop Carrier project mentioned above.

This headquarters will be pleased to provide any assistance possible which will aid in the preparation of this motion picture history, inasmuch as we feel that it is a vital addition to textbooks of the future, on the employment of United States Army Air Forces.

/s/ William D. Old,
Brigadier General, U.S.A.
Commanding

cc: Asst. Chief of A/S, Training

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HEADQUARTERS
FIRST ALLIED AIRBORNE ARMY

AFO 740, U S Army
6 December 1944

Major General James P. Hodges
Assistant Chief of Air Staff
Intelligence
Headquarters, Army Air Forces
Washington, D.C.

Dear

In your letter of 16 November you ask me to comment on Categories 1 and 22 of Tab A. Before I do so, I would like to give my reaction to category 15 as broken down in Tab B. It seems quite apparent from the outline that the whole organization of Category 15 has been developed from the point of view of the Strategic Air Force. The story of the Tactical Air Force is sandwiched in here and there as a sort of side issue. For the Ninth's operations from D day on the single heading "The Ninth in Action from Continental Bases" seems quite inadequate. The tactical history as well as the strategic can be broken down into phases. As laid down in FM 100-20 the mission of the Tactical Air Force consists of (1) the gaining of air superiority, (2) the prevention of the movement of hostile troops and supplies, and (3) the participation in the combined effort in the battle area. These missions suggest as appropriate heading in the film "The Luftwaffe is Driven from the Skies," "Railway Interdiction in Normandy," "The Massacre of MT after the St Lo Breakout" and "Bombing of Forts and Gun Positions." The new techniques of bombing bridge piers and tunnel entrances which were developed by the Ninth fighter-bombers in this period should be high-lighted.

With regard to Category 1, I have little to say. You in Washington know what historical films are available and are, I should say, in a much better position than we over here to judge which are most worthy of inclusion.

Category 22, "Airborne Operations," should, I think be carefully developed in consultation with the officers at the Airborne Center at Camp Mackall and at 1st Troop Carrier Command Headquarters. The principal thing to remember is that this is a wholly new tactic of warfare, a vertical envelopment, and that military doctrine, as well as equipment, training and operational technique has been fundamentally altered.

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Probably the film should begin with the first dropping of parachute troops from an Army bomber at San Antonio in 1919 for Gen. Billy Mitchell. Other historical shots - of mass Russian drops, of the Germans in Crete, etc. - would lead up to the development of our own airborne program. Shots of training activities in the States should cover all aspects of the program both for airborne troops, and troop carrier pilots and glider pilots. The development of new types of equipment, of new aircraft and gliders, of new techniques of dropping and landing would naturally be shown. All these should make it clear that the airborne operation is not just the combination of an air operation with a ground operation. It is a new whole which must be considered in its own terms and not in traditional Ground Force and Air Force terms. The airmen have to assume new responsibilities and learn new techniques; the equipment and employment of the airborne troops have to be adopted to their means of arrival in the combat zone.

So far as the history of our airborne forces in this war is concerned it is obvious that all important events should be covered - Africa, Sicily, Italy, New Guinea, Normandy, Southern France and Holland.

Shots of operations should emphasize the complexity of the planning for an airborne operation. Coordination must be achieved among many commands - the ground forces in the area, the supporting air forces, the naval forces, friendly anti-aircraft, to say nothing of airborne personnel and troop carrier personnel. The lifts, the timings, the routes, the exact duties of the supporting air forces, the time-table of the ground forces - these and many other matters must be clearly understood and agreed in advance.

The film should portray all stages of an airborne operation. These are: the marshalling of the troops on air fields, the marshalling of the planes and gliders for take-off, the loading, the take-off, the joining-up at rendezvous points, the escort en route, the anti-flak activities of supporting air forces, the drops and landings, the assembly of troops on the ground, the start for initial objectives, and (later) re-supply to the airborne troops. The film might indicate at its close that we are still learning and that the role of airborne operations will probably become greater in time to come.

One other question comes to mind in looking over Tab A - where does the Middle East Come in? If it is to be included in the film of the MTO it should be made clear that it was a separate theater. You know that our fighter support for Montgomery and our anti-shipping attacks on Rommel's tankers played a vital part in the Allied victory. And of course the Ploesti mission of 1 Aug 43 should be well covered.

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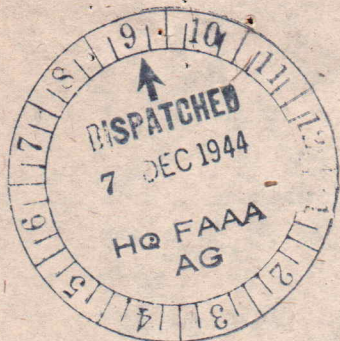
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The historical film project is a very interesting and important one and I wish you every success with it.

Sincerely,

LEWIS H. BERNSTON
Lieut. General, USA
Commanding

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ROUTING SLIP

TO → OFFICE & INDIVIDUAL IN TURN	DATE FORWARDED
1.	
2. Capit Belgarde.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

FOR → FOLLOWING ACTION(S) AS CHECKED

<input type="checkbox"/> COORDINATION	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> FILE
<input type="checkbox"/> SEE OR PHONE ME	<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE

COMMENT

Another letter to be answered.
 Also, send one copy of
 original to Historical Section
 and keep one on our files.

Sub Div BPR.
 Attn Chief

FROM →	OFFICE & INDIVIDUAL	PHONE
	RBm	

AC/AS, INTELLIGENCE
HEADQUARTERS AAF

TO:

Date 16 Dec 44

☒ AC/AS, Intelligence
☒ Deputy
☒ Special Assistant
☒ Joint Intelligence Staff
☒ Executive
☐ Office Records
☐ Personnel Officer
☐ Supply Officer
☐ Personnel Narratives

Operational Group

☐ Analysis Division
☐ Collection Division
☐ Liaison Branch
☐ Photographic Division
☐ Tech. Air Intelligence Div.

Administrative Group

☐ Informational Control
☐ Counter Intelligence Division
☐ Historical Division
☒ Training Plans Division
☒ Motion Picture Services Div.

Joint Target Group

☐ Evaluation Section
☐ Economic, Military and Indus. Sec.
☐ Production and Field Liaison Sec.
☐ Physical Vulnerability Section

☐ Action ☐ Information ☐ Signature

☐ Remarks ☐ Co-ordination

Some excellent ideas for
Airborne operations.

② Prepare reply - Ken H.
sign.

From:

W. P. G. - sp

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AFIMP

Capt. Belgard/aj/6709

21 Dec 44

Lieutenant General Lewis H. Brereton
Commanding General
First Allied Airborne Army
A.P.O. 740, c/o Postmaster
New York, New York

Dear Lewis:

Your reaction to the proposed motion picture history of the Army Air Forces was most stimulating.

The Motion Picture and Historical Divisions are working jointly to produce the historical film program. They will find your constructive comments and suggestions to be a useful guide in forming the final plan of procedure.

Besides the millions of feet of combat film to be screened for possible inclusion in the history, the training films are also being reviewed. The Troop Carrier Command is very well represented in the training film program with such pictures as "D-2 Normandy," "Combined Airborne Troop Carrier Maneuvers," "Troop Carriers - B-17," "Loading the C-47," "Tactical Use of Glider Pick-up," "Operation of Glider Pick-up by the C-47," and a radar film for pathfinders that is now in production. Undoubtedly these will all find their place in the history.

Your excellent response and best wishes for the success of the project are deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

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